



The Peninsula OBSERVER

the Newssheet of the Balmain Association PO Box 57•Balmain•NSW•2041
www.balmainassociation.org.au

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President's Report to AGM 2015 - Carolyn Allen

We have just held events celebrating the Association's 50th Anniversary Year and it was a great pleasure to welcome some of the founding members. At our first day of events at the Watch House the talk was of how they all came together to improve the environment of the local area and became embroiled in the politics of protesting the great impact of changes in shipping that brought containerisation to Mort and White Bay. Following this was the fight to ensure the changes made as industrial sites gave way to residential gave us improved open spaces as well as retaining the heritage character of the Peninsula. There were also the memories of wild parties held - functions at the Watch House now are certainly staid in comparison. It is clear that many of our early members were those with young families - some of them are still members - it would be great if we could attract younger families now. It is wonderful to think that we have had 50 years of members being passionate about the community and giving their time and skills to make a better place for all.

As part of our celebrations the exhibition "Then and Now" looked back over the past 50 years with many photos showing changes over this time. Jenny Porter who has drawn many of our local homes over the years, very kindly donated the drawings to us and we had these on display. Many newer residents were keen to find their own home and order a copy. We had these on display in our upstairs room which has been refurbished over the past 2 years and this was the first viewing for many locals. During the day we had an Arts and Crafts Fair a la 60s with jewellery, pottery, kids gear, and other items from local artists with Birchgrove Public School providing a sausage sizzle. A very successful cruise was held the following Sunday where all could see the significant changes to our waterfront over the past fifty years. My thanks to all people who came to help us celebrate

and to all those who made this possible and especially to Diana Garder who was the driving force behind the celebrations - but also to those who organised the exhibition and the cruise.

Our other exhibition during the year was as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival, *Conflict and Compassion* relating the First World War and our exhibition was *Balmain Cared*. Our exhibition celebrated the many Balmain community efforts to support soldiers on the front and those returning. The opening included a social game of two-up with ANZAC biscuits and meat pies. A small group were still playing when I left the Watch House so I am not sure who was the big winner! We have a wonderful team who have worked on these two exhibitions and they have also continued to work on our archives during the year as well as doing history enquiries and, with others work hard to research stories for The Peninsula Observer. This group do a fabulous job making sure we continue to promote the heritage of Balmain.

This past year we have had 3 new Committee Members, Andrew West, Duncan MacAuslan and Margaret Bailey, all with different skills to join the great team we have. Andrew has added expertise to our History and Archives group and has done quite a few Heritage reports for locals needing them for their Development Applications as well as contributing some great articles to The Peninsula Observer. The History and Archives group included Kathleen Hamey, Helen Carter, Andrew West and Ross McKenzie and to a certain extent are the Heritage 'face' of the Association. A number of our committee also contribute significantly to the Peninsula Observer including Christina Ritchie for her comments on developments and June Lunsmann for general organisation. June also makes a big contribution for her management of the bookings for the Watch House, without which we



Carolyn Allen at the 1960s Wine Bar
Photo courtesy Margaret Bailey

would have no income. We also have a number of members who look after the maintenance, primarily John Symonds and Leo White. John also does all our finance as well as the on line Bulletin. Margaret Bailey has kept our garden as well as providing practical support for all our events. I thank all on the committee for your contributions during the year - the Balmain association does not exist without you.

The only 'down' side of the year has been our neighbour's dispute with us which took us to court and consumed a considerable part of our very hard earned funds and much of our time. The result is that we will remove the retaining wall in the rear garden to enable our neighbour to install damp proofing and then rebuild it. We are greatly indebted to Association Member, Paul Blacket for the assistance and moral support he has given during this difficult time. Hopefully all this will be concluded early in 2016.

For details of the committee for coming year see the back page.

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2016, Bus Museum Opening,
Christmas Exhibition and drinks.

50th Anniversary Edition



Vale Amy Large

On the 5th November a very well attended farewell service was held for Amy at the St John's Anglican Church, Birchgrove.

Amy was a well known and respected Balmainite with her long association with the Birchgrove Public School and community groups, such as, Back to Balmain Day and the Balmain Town Hall Management Committee. It was well known to her husband Geoff that when Amy went shopping in Balmain, it would be hours later before she returned as she would have a chat to many people.

She will be greatly missed by many generations.

As Amy Palmer, Amy came to Birchgrove School from Cowra in 1946 when she was in 6th class. She made her mark then in sports and on the Dance Floor at the Balmain Town Hall. Photo 6th Class Ball, From The Birchgrove Public School Centenary Book, 1985.



Planning Matters November 2015 – Christina Ritchie

Bays Precinct planning by Urban Growth

—A transformation plan by Urban Growth has been presented to the State Government. It is available on the Urban Growth website in the Bays Precinct section. Government Ministers continue to meet with various developer and financial groups and agencies to discuss options for the Fish markets site and the White Bay Power Station, the first two sites to be 'activated'. Planning Minister Stokes referred to the old Power Station as a great development site. There has been no mention of Heritage preservation or keeping any of it in public hands. The focus has been on financial return. Although redevelopment of the power station was expected, numerous submissions expressed a desire to retain some public ownership, with preservation of the heritage aspects of the buildings and site, in particular public access to, and use of, the impressive Turbine hall, and attractive usable public open space stretching from the current buildings to the waterfront. It might be a waste of time doing a Google search on the Power Station site in future as Google will likely be sitting on it. Traffic issues are a major concern. A light rail connection and frequent public ferry service at White Bay, together with improved pedestrian access, would help alleviate congestion.

Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) - The State government Upper house has just passed a bill to establish the Greater Sydney Commission. The Bill was passed with the support of Fred Nile and the Shooters and Fishers, with a few minor amendments by the Labor party. This new authority – not really a commission – will be very powerful as far as planning in NSW goes. It will be able to override council LEP's and DCP's and contradicts the pledge to return planning powers to local

government. Amalgamations might diminish local input, but this goes further. The GSC will be more powerful than Urban Growth. It will be an unelected body.

White Bay Cruise Ship Terminal – regulations are now in force to reduce the sulphur content in the fuel used by ships berthing at White Bay. Monitoring is being carried out but black smoke and noise exceedances still occur. Dangerous particulate matter, benzene and toluene emissions continue. A feasibility study report for shore to ship power has not yet been completed and there is no proposal as yet to install it. Noise breaches continue to disturb residents and appear to be getting worse. The view of the community is that offending ships must be relocated away from residential areas. International health regulations are being seriously breached. We can expect a large increase in berthings at White Bay in the forthcoming peak season.

Telstra Exchange, Post Office Park – No further news has been received on this issue. There is concern about the delay as possible Council amalgamations loom.

East Balmain Ferry Wharf transport interchange – The upgrade of the East Balmain Ferry wharf has been completed but a plan to upgrade the transport interchange has yet to be finalised. The options provided for consideration, and in particular, the preferred option of the TfNSW, will impact moderately (their words) on Thornton park, the Heritage Bells/Fenwick's store site and Heritage Illoura Reserve, with no significant improvement to the bus turning area – a three point turn with reversing beeps will continue. The toilets will be demolished and temporary ones installed until Council can provide replacement toilets in a 'convenient' location.

Fenwick's/Bell's Store Heritage

Building and site – Council has not yet determined the outcome for Bell's/Fenwick's store. Numerous objections to the Council DA were lodged and the Heritage Council have raised a number of concerns.

New Strata laws and development – The NSW Government has passed the new Strata Laws bill with the support of Fred Nile and the Shooters and Fishers. While some changes improve governance there is considerable concern about the changes that allow the 'collective sale' of a block, with only 75% of owners support. This diminishes the legal rights of owners and will impact those more vulnerable. It is likely that smaller blocks in high land value suburbs will be targeted by developers.

Callan Park – Council and residents are meeting regularly again to discuss the future of Callan Park now that the NSW Government appears to be moving ahead with plans to establish a Trust.

Former Tigers club site – the latest plans to develop this site are now before the Land and Environment Court. They are for a 12 storey residential tower on the higher part of the site and an 8 storey tower on the lower part, with underground parking, a plaza area, small Club premises and other retail and commercial space. The developer, Urbis, chose not to have it determined by the JRPP. The proposal is not dissimilar in size to the initial one rejected by the JRPP on the grounds of traffic and parking issues. Council will oppose the latest proposal at the hearing.

Beattie St child care centre – the proposed 90 place Childcare centre for 69-73 Beattie St Balmain has been approved by the LPP.

In the beginning.....

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the formation of the Balmain Association was an occasion of celebration and nostalgia for me. I celebrated, as other members did, with the harbour cruise, the Watch House party and later at the opening of the Blacket Room. It took me back to my early days in Sydney where I had recently arrived to work with the National Trust of NSW. The Trust received a message from the newly formed Balmain Association seeking support in saving the Watch House which it had learnt was sought by Leichhardt Council for demolition to use the stone for retaining walls. Accompanied by several members of the Trust's Historic Buildings Committee we came to Balmain and were shown the Watch House and some of Balmain which I had never visited before. We decided that the Watch House was well worth saving and recommended its classification. I joined with several members of the Association in a visit to Mr Tom Lewis, Minister for Lands seeking custody of the building but the Minister hesitated, saying that he had government buildings all over New South Wales that had been granted to local bodies which subsequently folded up leaving the government in a difficult legal situation. As a solution I suggested that he appoint the National Trust as trustees and said that the trust would lease it to the Association, supervise its conservation, and if the Association folded up the Trust would accept responsibility. I had no authority from the Trust to do this but "it seemed like a good idea at the time" Besides I thought that if the Association folded up I would like to live there myself. (no such luck!) That's how it all started, and the next year (1966) Jocelyn & I were married and came to live in Balmain where we have lived ever since. It has given me great joy to see how the Association has flourished over the years and how the Watch House has become a cultural centre with its art shows and other functions. John Morris.

*From the first issue
April 1966*

WATCH HOUSE OPENING.

"We must learn from the past, by preserving our historic buildings and our parks and wildlife. I am sure this generation and future generations will respect us for it." So said the Minister for Lands, Mr. Tom Lewis, as he officially opened the Watch House on April 12.

For so long the Watch House had been a focal point of the Balmain Association's activities, that to many of the workers who had scraped paint, renewed woodwork and patched floors the big moment had an unreal quality.

The Minister spoke to a packed front garden and a crowd of 300 that spilled out on to Darling Street.

To add colour to the occasion, as President Bill Haesler opened proceedings the strains of "High Society" came wafting down Darling Street, as Major Muddle and his Mud Marchers jazz band appeared--to the crowd's delight. Later Cedric Flower from the National Trust donated a Georgian clock to the Watch House "as we know only too well the sweat, blood and tears that can go into this effort--as well as the satisfaction."

Newsheet No. 26 June 1970

Arts and Crafts Sales were a major fundraiser in the early days and were the forerunner of the Balmain Markets at the Congregational Church. Today the Association raises funds through hire of the Watch House as an exhibition space - this began in the late 1980s instigated by Steve South.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

IS A GROUP OF LEGAL PEOPLE WHO GOT TOGETHER AT THE END OF LAST YEAR TO TRY TO IMPROVE BALMAIN AS A LIVING AREA.

WE NOW NUMBER 140, AND, THE LIST OF MEMBERS GROWS LONGER AT EVERY GENERAL MEETING.

OUR AIMS, ROUGHLY, ARE TO WORK OUT WAYS TO IMPROVE THE AMENITIES OF THE AREA (WHICH YOU WILL PROBABLY AGREE ARE SADLY LACKING). WE HOPE TO MAKE THESE IMPROVEMENTS OURSELVES, WITH OF COURSE HELP FROM OTHER LOCAL BODIES WHERE POSSIBLE.

SOME OF THE THINGS WE ARE AIMING FOR ARE A CHILD-MINDING CENTRE SO THAT HARRASSED MOTHERS CAN GET A BREAK FROM THEIR CHILDREN NOW AND THEN, A CHILDREN'S LIBRARY AND CRAFT CENTRE, A CENTRE FOR ADULT MEETINGS, DISPLAYS ETC., AND OTHER AMENITIES OF THIS SORT. FOR THIS WE NEED A BUILDING FOR OUR HEADQUARTERS. WE HAVE BEEN GRANTED THE USE OF A SUITABLE ONE WHICH WE HOPE TO OCCUPY SHORTLY.

OUR MEMBERS HAVE MANY INTERESTS. SOME ALREADY HAVE SHOWN A DESIRE TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT BALMAIN'S HOMES AND BUILDINGS, WHILE OTHERS ARE INTERESTED IN THE AREA'S HISTORY AND RELICS OF PAST DAYS.

YOU, TOO, MAY HAVE AN INTEREST LIKE THIS -- IN THE ARTS OR CHURCHES, OR PHOTOGRAPHY, OR WATERFRONT INDUSTRIES. YOU WILL PROBABLY FIND SOMEONE WITH A SIMILAR INTEREST IN THE ASSOCIATION.

OBVIOUSLY WE CAN'T TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION IN THIS BRIEF LETTER, SO WHY NOT COME ALONG TO OUR NEXT MEETING. IT WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 21ST AT THE BALMAIN TOWN HALL. YOU WILL BE MOST WELCOME.

WE BELIEVE THAT BALMAIN HAS MANY FEATURES WORTH PRESERVING, AND YOU COULD HELP US.

*Newsheet No. 40
October 1972*



SALE OF WORK

This is another of our big fund raisers, and a wonderful chance to pick up the unusual, the original, the amusing and the economical items that we usually have to spend days finding.

It's on at the Watch House on Friday, November 24, from 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 25.

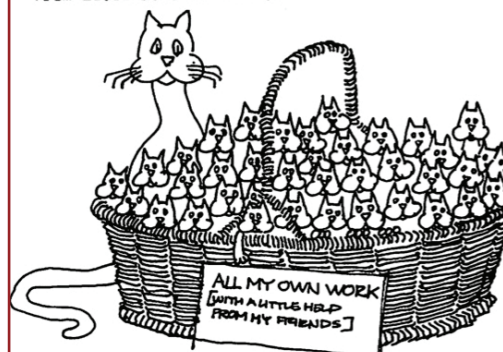
Contact Jeannette Stevenson on 824255 if you want to participate as she is organising the stalls now for selling handicrafts and old wares.

That's Jeannette Stevenson on 824255 after 7.30 p.m., please.

*Newsheet No. 46
October 1973*

arts and crafts sale

Do you have some handicrafts to offer for sale - something original, useful, humorous - if so join us for the Arts and Crafts Sale at the Watch House on Friday, 7th December from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. and Saturday, 8th December from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.



If you wish to participate, contact Diana McDonald, telephone 82 4882, as she is organising the stalls for selling handicrafts and old wares.

Saturday 12 September 2015.....

Great to see that everyone can still have a community event and party on. Thanks to Cobden and Heysen for publicity, Mike Locker for his “Now” photographs, Birchgrove school for sausage sizzle and the artists who presented their work.

The celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of the Balmain Association were very successful with many people enjoying the activities which had been planned. A beautiful sunny day for the Arts and Craft Fair in the Watch House Park with an array of goods for sale. Although small it was very colourful and attracted many passers-by. The tempting aromas from the sausage sizzle enticed many in as well.

The Watch House shone in the 60's Wine Bar with the candles in bottles, while

many enjoyed the 60's style jatz crackers, cubed cheese & salami, meat pies & sausage rolls – all good fun!

The Harbour Cruise the following week was well attended and a number of local identities spoke about the changes around the waterfront over the 50 years. Thanks to Larry Hand, John Morris, Bill Haesler, Kath Hacking, Jan Wood and others – some of their words follow.... Di Garder.

Arts and Craft Fair



Pymont, Ultimo, Glebe Men's Shed

Thank you very much for inviting us to the Anniversary events. The organisers were extremely helpful and the stall set up was easy and organised. The location was great, being near a building of such historical significance provided a great back drop. I had a number of people stop and ask me what the festival was for or what it was about etc. and was happy to explain. It was a really good day and we were happy to be part of it. Thanks again for having us and hope to be part of future gatherings. Courtney stallholder



Colin Sullivan, Janette Sullivan, Paul Blacket and Diana Garder partying on.

Recollections Jocelyn Morris



Jocelyn with Piers Toop at the wine bar

The Association's 50th celebrations stirred many memories of the highs and lows of the last 50 years.

The Arts and Craft Fair, on the “Village Green”, the photos of Old Balmain “Then and Now” and the 60's Wine Bar in the evening had the Watch House buzzing with activity reminding us of past events. The first edition of the Association's News Sheet in April 1966 invited members to a “Wine, Cheese and Aerogard Evening”! The Harbour Cruise was a great opportunity to see the Balmain foreshore at close quarters. Here the changes of the last 50 years are stark. The transition from the

shipyards and working harbour with the scattering of houses and gardens and the occasional jetty are now just memories. Many large modern houses and a quiet harbour have replaced the constant activity of tugs, barges and work boats of every shape and size when the New Year was welcomed by blasts from the competing horns of many ships.

The celebrations have served as a reminder of the value of the Association and of the many members who put in so much time and effort keeping it going over the years. The various committees organised parties, garden competitions, house and garden inspections, set up and ran a children's library in the Watch House, restored and maintained the Watch House and organised many art exhibitions.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the many members who spent so much time and energy labouring over numerous submissions to Government inquiries and commissions, dealing with the never-ending threats from containerisation, harbour crossings, town planning, demolitions and other threats to Balmain's heritage. Without the tireless work of those early members the Balmain of today would look very different!



Louise Thornton's DIY craft kits for kids, home-made necklaces and up cycled homemade items.



Packing up

Photos courtesy Margaret Bailey and Steve South

and after dark.....



At Cobden & Hayson, we were delighted to sponsor the Balmain Association 50th Anniversary events. We enjoyed helping with the planning and learning more about the work of the Balmain Association over the past 50 years and the tremendous work carried out by the many dedicated volunteers. I personally thoroughly enjoyed the cruise and catching up with many of the members. Having been associated with local Balmain property for over 20 years, we enjoyed seeing the photos, illustrations and history of many of the properties we know quite well. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Balmain Association.

Best wishes, Danny Cobden, Cobden & Hayson



1. Signing in
2. Paul Blacket and John Symonds
3. The barman
4. and George Cooper
5. Alexandra Gawdan and Ross MacKenzie
6. Christina Ritchie
7. Behind Bars
8. Photographer Mike Locker with his display
9.Mike Locker and Alexis Kenny
10. Jan and David Robertson and Gwen Higgins

Photos courtesy Margaret Bailey

Cruise Sunday 19th

Our thanks to the founding members who reminisced about early days. In particular Bill Haesler and his recollection as president at the time of the official opening, 12 April 1970, of his last minute acquisition of Mr Muddle and his Mud Marches who marched down Darling St to strains of "High Society" and what a hit that was. John Morris who was instrumental in Balmain Association being able to "acquire" the Watch House, see John's account of this on page 3.

On more recent issues, Larry Hand, mayor, 1990s recalled his time on council and the fight over the five sites. Kath Hacking also spoke about her time as a councillor during that same era and thanked the Balmain Association for agreeing to be the incorporated body that launched the successful court challenges on behalf of BURST (Balmain United Residents Strategic Taskforce). See article by Ben Hills for some insight into these times benhills.com/articles/scams-scoundrels/the-battle-for-balmain/ June Lunsmann



John Morris



Asa Wahlquist

There is no better way to celebrate Balmain than to see it from the water. And surely there could be no better way to see how Balmain has changed, and what the Balmain Association has achieved, than to spend an afternoon on a ferry cruising the shores, listening to reminiscences that covered 50 years of local activism. The fact the ferry, Proclaim, was built at Morrison & Sinclair's boat shed, which was on Long Nose Point, and began its life as a popular ferry for Nicholson Bros, who were located on Wharf Road, and was skippered by a man who began his working life at Nicholson Bros in the early 1960s, all added to the history - and the poignancy of the occasion. Asa Wahlquist



Diana Garder and Bill Haesler



Paul Lunsmann spoke about the Balmain Coal Mine and explained tunnels extended as far as Bradley's Head.

I would like to thank you and the other organisers of today's ferry cruise again for a terrific day. In addition to the cruise itself, it was great to catch up with like minded people one doesn't necessarily see all that often. I found Di Garder's commentary as well as that of other specialists particularly valuable and learnt things I hadn't known before. Please pass my congratulations and thanks on to all the committee. All the best, Marina Garlick



Our thanks to Rosman Ferries and the skipper, Terry Johnston, who patiently turned the ferry in circles while guests spoke. Terry is a Balmain boy, with 51 years experience on the harbour starting with Hegarty's in 1964 then joined Nicholson's in Wharf Road, Birchgrove. He has been working for Rosman's for 35 years.

Photos on this page courtesy Sue Hanckel

Coming of age

A great celebration of the Balmain Association's 50th year is its coming of age in "the IT world" and to have all our newsletters since the very first published in April 1966 through to 2012, available on our website. When the committee first heard of this the only comment was "WOW".

This fantastic job has been done by Jenny Longbottom, a new member, who has scanned them all in a relatively short time. WELL DONE. And John Symonds, our treasurer, IT person as well as maintenance expert, has put them all on our website.

Without this it would have taken hours of going through the hard copies to find information and then scanning, to be included in this newsletter (ed.).

So now any person can go to www.balmainassociation.org.au/newsletters and search for a location, an event or even their name and be reminded of what happened over the 50 years of the association.

Sincere admiration and thanks from all.

The next project will be the electronic archiving of photos and documents to give easy access for research. If any member has expertise and time to help in this area please let us know contact@balmainassociation.org.au.



Dedication of the Meeting Room 31 October

A very special event on Saturday 31 October, 2015, was the dedication of Meeting Room and archive rooms to the Blacket family, in particular Paul Blacket, SC, who has been an invaluable support during the Association's recent court case. Paul's great grandfather was Edmund Blacket's brother, who as we all know designed the Watch House and many other significant buildings in Sydney. We have photographs of Edmund Blacket's family circa 1880 displayed in the room. Diana Garder, secretary, introduced Carolyn

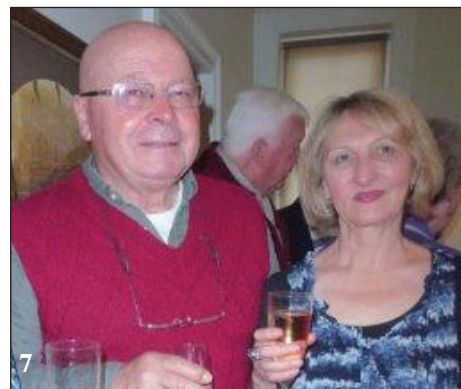
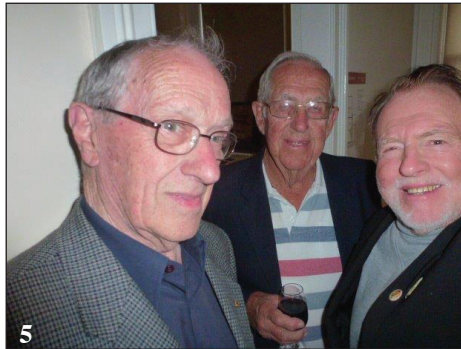
Allen, President, to oversee the unveiling of a portrait of Paul Blacket and a plaque to commemorate the occasion. Paul was somewhat overwhelmed and we learnt a little more about his ancestors from the portraits displayed. He also commented on the dedication of the committee members, Carolyn Allen, John Symonds and June Lunsman, who were involved in the court case with thanks extended to them. It was a moving occasion with thanks going to the dedicated hands-on workers Leo White, John Symonds and Ross

MacKenzie, and archivists Kathleen Hamey, Andrew West, Ross MacKenzie who were ably led by Helen Carter. These are the members who have made this a wonderfully restored space with easy access to the Association's many valuable records. Their commitment is ongoing and new member, Jenny Longbottom, has painstakingly scanned all the newsheets from the beginning (see opposite).

Looking towards the future and what may be needed to improve the Watch House, in a lighter vein, long standing member, John Morris suggested a lift!!!

We then adjourned to a local pub for dinner and the congratulations and reminiscences continued.

JS, CA and JL.



1. Christl Blacket and Carolyn Allen
2. Duncan MacAuslan and Shirley Pech
3. Jess and Bill Haesler
4. Paul Blacket with Jackie and Peter Lublin
5. Bill Haesler, Bob Ellis and John Moore
6. Fergus Fricke and Peter Toogood
7. Leo White and Christina Ritchie
8. Rita Ellis and Helen Carter
9. Paul and Christl Blacket
10. Meg Wallace and Kathleen Hamey.

Thanks to John Moore for these photos.



What's on at the Watch House

www.balmainassociation.org.au

Due to maintenance work there will be no artists' exhibitions during February. The first exhibition for 2016 will be the well known Balmain Peninsula Painters 5, 6 March 2016.

Back to Balmain Day October 2015

A lovely fine day attracted a great crowd who had come to catch up with old friends.

Focus this year was "memories" and of great interest were the photos from Balmain School where past students pored over them and tried to remember the names of friends.

Once again we were entertained by the Honeybrook Dancers, Birchgrove School Band and Leichhardt Celebrity Brass Band with Pam's Jazz Ensemble rounding off the day. Balmain Rowing Club provided a scrumptious sausage sizzle / cake stall.



Amy Large, Janice Swanson, Shirley Arthur, Kath Hacking at 2011 B2B Day, possibly thinking will we do that next year?

2015 AGM

President Carolyn Allen Vice President no nomination
Secretary Diana Garder Treasurer John Symonds
Committee Leo White, Duncan MacAuslan, Helen Carter,
June Lunsmann, Christina Ritchie, Ross MacKenzie.
Public Officer Malcolm Garder

We were disappointed that Kathleen Hamey has retired from the Management Committee. We thank her for her many years of service to the Association and are pleased she is continuing in her important roles as historian, contact person on our website and as a volunteer for Saturdays at the Watch House.

Andrew West and Margaret Bailey who did not nominate for the management committee this year but will continue in their current roles - Andrew as history and house researcher and archivist and Margaret who looks after the garden among other things.

Andrew West, Jenny Longbottom, Kathleen Hamey and Ross MacKenzie meet each Tuesday at the Watch House to continue sorting and improving the Association archives.

John Symonds and Leo White are the mainstay of maintenance at the Watch House and June Lunsmann continues to take the weekend bookings.

If any members have knowledge, expertise or just a willing pair of hands to assist in any of the above, you'd be most welcome. Come along to the Watch House on a Saturday for a couple of hours to meet and greet visitors and research some Balmain History.

Bus Museum Opening

The Sydney Bus Museum at the old Leichhardt Tram Shed will hold its first opening to the public on Wednesday 16th December. This preview evening will be a ticketed event for 100 people who will be transported by a vintage double decker from the Sydney CBD for a 90 minute tour.

Look for more details on www.sydneybusmuseum.com



Darcy Byrne, Mayor with the committee.

Missing on Sunday was Amy Large great organiser and enthusiastic fan of the day. Unfortunately she was in hospital and passed away on the following Sunday but she would have heard what a memorable day it was.

Once again a very big thank you to all the organisers in particular Michele and Kath Hacking, Shirley and Ray Arthur, Janice Swanson, John Stamolis and many more.

Christmas drinks and Exhibition

Saturday 12th December at 4pm

The exhibition will be on Saturdays, 11.30 to 3pm, during December and January except December 26 and January 2.

- The panoramas from Post Office Tower: Kerry 1909 and David Liddle 2009
- Jenny Porter's sketches of many houses from 1970s
- "then and nows" for those who may have missed them.

Information Diana digarder@bigpond.net.au, June 9810 6885.



National Trust Heritage Festival 2016

16 April- 29 May 2016

Discovery & Rediscoveries

Re-explore our region and rediscover some amazing treasures. This can encompass the experience of discovering something for the first time or rediscovering something that has been lost, forgotten or concealed.

Put your "thinking caps" on and let us know your ideas. contact@balmainassociation.org.au.

The Balmain Association Inc Representing Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle

Our aims are to:

- Improve the living, working and recreational amenities of our area;
- maintain all features having natural, architectural and or historical value of the area and keep a permanent collection of historical interest;
- seek the cooperation of everyone concerned in the realization of the above.

The Balmain Association meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm in the Watch House, 179 Darling Street Balmain.

MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

The History Room at the Watch House is open every Saturday from 11:30am-3pm

Postal: PO Box 57 Balmain 2041

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